



Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District
43301 Division Street, Suite 206
Lancaster, CA 93535
(661) 723-8070

MEDIA RELEASE

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For further information contact:

Bret Banks, Operations Manager (661) 723-8070

Violette Roberts, Community Relations & Education Manager
(760) 245-1661, ext. 6104

AVAQMD Earns Prestigious Transparency Certificate

Lancaster – The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District has received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence conferred by the Special District Leadership Foundation, in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

“This award is a testament to the AVAQMD’s commitment to open and accessible government,” said Governing Board Chair Marvin Christ, adding that “The agency’s staff and Board are to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight.”

The certificate was presented during the California Special District Association’s Annual Conference in Monterey on September 18. To qualify, a special district must complete eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all Board members, properly conducting open and public meetings and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State controller in a timely manner. Additionally the AVAQMD was required to fulfill fifteen website requirements – including providing readily available public information - and to demonstrate active outreach that engages the public through special community engagement projects.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities – such as water, fire protection, healthcare and more – which are established and funded by voters.

SLDF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California’s special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

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Approximately 2,000 of the state's 5,000 special districts are current members of SLDF. Less than 1% of SLDF's eligible member agencies have successfully applied for the coveted Transparency Certificate.

The AVAQMD is the local air pollution control agency for the High Desert portion of North Los Angeles County, including the Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale. The District is responsible for regulating stationary air pollution sources and implementing state and federal air quality rules and regulations within its 1,300 square mile jurisdiction, which is home to almost half a million residents.

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